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development of those institutions whose influence is powerful even in modern life. The teacher of history will find it an excellent outline of the characteristic institutional development of those people who contributed most to modern governmental ideas and methods, yet whose work is usually taken for granted, rather than studied and understood.

The chief criticism that may be urged against the book is that its brevity gives somewhat distorted impressions of certain institutions, and necessitates somewhat dogmatic statements regarding controverted points. These faults are offset by marginal references to sources and by extended bibliographies by whose aid the reader may easily find more extended discussions of the points at issue.

An appendix contains well selected examples of senatorial documents, actions of the popular assemblies, edicts and inscriptions together with brief passages from Latin writers dealing with political institutions.

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Bonar, James. *Distributing Elements in the Study and Teaching of Political Economy.* Pp. 145. Price, \$1.00. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1911.

The publication of this volume puts in permanent form the five lectures delivered by the author during April, 1910, before the Economic Seminary of Johns Hopkins University. The two following paragraphs from the preface throw light on the nature of the work:

"As the title suggests, they [the lectures] are discourses not on economic error in general, but on the more subtle fallacies which are apt to invade the reasoning of trained economists in spite of learning and discipline.

"Such errors creep in from a popular political philosophy (Lecture I), from want of any political philosophy (II), from mistaken aversion to theory (III), from the shortcomings of common or technical language (IV), and from the wrong handling of distinctions of time (V)."

In the first lecture, entitled "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," the author maintains that "without fraternity in the form of organization of smaller groups than nations, it will be difficult to preserve what was long the most precious feature of the economic world in English speaking America,—the independent labourer." . . . "With due care and pains on the part of both of you [Canada and the United States] there need not be any proletariat at all." . . . "In a proletariat there is little liberty and little true fraternity; there is something like an equality of suffering and degradation. If the watchwords would keep us mindful of this great duty, it would be well to hear their music every day, even in our study."

In the second lecture, entitled "Government is Founded on Opinion," it is pointed out how frequently public opinion is unscientific and needs enlightenment. "If the economist should not be guided by public opinion, he should try to guide it, recognizing that error is possible which he must help to remove."

The third lecture dissects the phrase so frequently heard, "It may be so

in theory," and shows wherein its use is the mark of an untrained mind since theory and practice are as inseparable as an object and its shadow.

Lecture IV likewise analyzes another popular expression, "Figures can prove anything." In this discussion the point is well made that economics has suffered in having borrowed terms from the physical sciences which at best could be but analogous since economics of necessity has its own distinct group of phenomena to describe.

In the concluding discussion with the caption, "In the Long Run," "economic tendencies" are discussed. It is pointed out that while there is no saving virtue in the "long run" there is no necessary fallacy in the phrase. All wise national policies should include this "long run" view.

The lectures are scholarly and written from the social viewpoint. They are addressed primarily to students of economics. They should be of particular interest to Americans since they are written by a foreigner.

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Bracq, J. C. *France Under the Republic.* Pp. x, 376. Price, \$1.50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910.

France has suffered much from adverse criticism, most of it superficial. Even some of the French themselves have looked upon their future through dark glasses. Mr. Bracq shows us the other side of French life, though one must admit that the attitude adopted is at times too complaisant toward facts which should prove disquieting. It seems for example that the population question should have more than a single page and foreign and colonial relations deserve more than the passing mention accorded them. But the book lacks because the reader wants so much rather than because of what it contains. It is brilliantly written. The description of the advance in commerce and in national wealth, the contributions which the republic has made to the fine arts, and the active part which public welfare has come to play in the politics of France convince one that French life is still at bottom sound and vigorous.

A prominent place in the discussion is given, as would be expected to the absorbing discussion of the relation of the church to the state and especially to education. Schools have multiplied, there are no longer discriminations between rich and poor in common school instruction. Teachers are better trained, schoolhouses better equipped, in short, the lay schools have proved themselves an unqualified success. A detailed defense against the charge that the schools are atheistic is supported by quotations from textbooks which make out a good case.

Separation of church and state the author believes is proving a blessing even to the church which feared it. "The Catholic Church of France has never had more earnestness in its priesthood," . . . though "this can scarcely be said of the regular clergy, i. e., the members of monastic organizations." The work of the church in philanthropy is given hearty praise. The suppression of the unauthorized orders and separation of church and state will,